



# Hon. Robert T. Matsui

## Member of Congress

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*Robert T. Matsui*

Serving California's 5th District

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### MATSUI SECURES FUNDING FOR SPACE / SCIENCE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM AT SACRAMENTO STATE

*Integrated approach will promote science and math education at local schools, strengthen research capabilities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Educators at California State University, Sacramento received a welcomed boost today with the approval of \$500,000 in funding for an integrated Space Science Center and planetarium. Congressman Robert T. Matsui announced the funding today, following House passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 4818 on Saturday, November 20.

With this funding, Sacramento State will expand on existing partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to host the Space Science Center. The federal investment secured by Representative Matsui will allow Sacramento State to purchase a wide range of equipment ranging from solar and astronomical telescopes to observatory domes and high-volume lab servers. The center will also house an observatory and other facilities to enhance faculty research and student learning capabilities. Resources offered by the center will directly complement the Challenger Learning Center at the Discovery Museum in Sacramento.

**“A strong science and math education is essential to maintaining America’s leadership in space research and exploration,”** said Representative Matsui. **“Innovative approaches, like those offered at Sacramento State help students and experts alike realize the dreams and potential of our generation. California is a leader in our nation’s space industry and the integrated Space Science center will help keep our state on the cutting edge of research and development.”**

Finally, the Space Science Center will provide training and outreach activities for K-12 school teachers and students throughout the Sacramento region. Through these efforts, they will encourage young adults to pursue science-related fields. Space-related industry contributes \$24 billion a year to California’s economy, employing over 180,000 jobs directly, each with an average annual salary of \$60,000.

**“Our integrated center will draw more than 25,000 visitors a year to planetarium shows, observation nights, exhibits and workshops,”** said Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez. **“We believe this facility will attract students to pursue degrees in various fields of science and facilitate Sacramento State’s educational and research efforts in astronomy.”**

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